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ABSTRACT

In 1984, the Council of State Governments undertook a study to assess states' intentions regarding implementation of the Commission on Excellence in Education's 1983 report "A Nation at Risk." The study described in this report follows up on the findings of the Council's 1984 study, identifying the areas where states have made progress in educational reform and improvement and indicating the barriers that have thwarted implementation of many commission recommendations. The report also identifies recommendations that have not been widely implemented and those that states seem uninterested in implementing 5 years later. Commission recommendations were grouped into five reform areas: instructional content; standards and expectations; time management; teaching, leadership and fiscal support; and attitudes and opinions. Results found an implementation slowdown; lack of a complete, unified implementation program; general agreement that recommendations were well-considered; unanticipated barriers to implementation; and shared implementation responsibility. There is little impetus for implementing recommendations concerning teaching at the state education agency level. Leadership for teaching reforms is likely to originate from the schools themselves. The discussion is supplemented by numerous tables and 26 endnotes.

(MLH)

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